Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for organizing ~~displaying~~ video streams on a display screen ~~received from multiple terminals linked by a network, the method~~ comprising:

receiving a plurality of video streams at a network terminal;

simultaneously displaying the video streams in a user interface provided by the network terminal;

ranking within the network terminal at least a portion of the video streams according to a set of ranking criteria, wherein said ranking is to determine the relative locations of the video streams within the user interface; and

arranging the locations of at least a portion of the simultaneously-displayed video streams within the user interface in order of rank as determined by the ranking criteria.

2. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

detecting a scene change within a first video stream; and

promoting the first video stream to a higher rank thereby changing the location of the first video stream within the user interface.

3. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one video stream comprises a scene change, and wherein at least a portion of the video streams are ranked, and therefore arranged within the user interface, according to recency of scene changes.

4. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one video stream comprises a scene change, and wherein at least a portion of the video streams are ranked, and therefore arranged within the user interface, according to frequency of scene changes.

5. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the video streams are ranked, and therefore arranged within the user interface, according to ~~popularity~~ how many network terminals are displaying the respective video streams.

6. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one video stream is promoted to a higher rank in response to the time of day thereby changing the location of the at least one video stream within the user interface.

7. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one video stream is promoted to a higher rank in response to the day of the week thereby changing the location of the at least one video stream within the user interface.

8. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one video stream is promoted to a higher rank in response to information contained within a user's calendar thereby changing the location of the at least one video stream within the user interface.

9. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein displaying comprises: displaying the video streams in a grid format in the user interface.

10. (currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein a video stream displayed near the top of the user interface is designated as having ~~has~~ a higher rank than a video stream displayed near the bottom of the user interface.

11. (currently amended) The method of claim 9, wherein a video stream displayed near the left side of the user interface is designated as having ~~has~~ a higher rank than a video stream displayed near the right side of the user interface.

12. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein displaying comprises: displaying the video streams in a ticker format in the user interface.

13. (currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the ticker format comprises a moving carousel of simultaneously-displayed video streams having a beginning position and an ending position, and wherein a video stream displayed near the beginning position is designated as having ~~has~~ a higher rank than a video stream displayed near the ending position.

14. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein displaying comprises:

visually emphasizing the video stream of highest rank within the user interface.

15. (currently amended) The method of claim 14, wherein emphasizing comprises:

enlarging the video stream of highest rank as displayed within ~~on~~ the user interface relative to the other video streams.

16. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the network terminal comprises one of a cable network terminal and a direct satellite broadcast (DBS) network terminal.

17. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the network terminal comprises an interactive television system.

18. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one video stream comprises a broadcast television program.

19. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein at least one video stream comprises live video generated by a webcam.

20. (currently amended) A system for organizing ~~displaying~~ video streams on a display screen ~~received from multiple terminals linked by a network, the system~~ comprising:

a stream reception component configured to receive a plurality of video streams at a network terminal;

a stream display component configured to simultaneously display the video streams in a user interface provided by the network terminal; and

a stream ranking component within the network terminal ~~configured~~ to rank at least a portion of the video streams according to a set of ranking criteria, and wherein the stream display component is further configured to arrange the locations of at least a portion of the simultaneously-displayed video streams within the user interface in order of rank as determined by the ranking criteria.

21. (currently amended) The system of claim 20, wherein the stream ranking component is configured to detect a scene change within a first video stream and to promote the first video stream to a higher rank thereby changing the location of the first video stream within the user interface.

22. (currently amended) The system of claim 20, wherein at least one video stream comprises a scene change, and wherein the stream ranking component is configured to rank, and the stream display component is configured to arrange within the user interface, at least a portion of the video streams according to recency of scene changes.

23. (currently amended) The system of claim 20, wherein at least one video stream comprises a scene change, and wherein the stream ranking component is configured to rank, and the stream display component is configured to arrange within the user interface, at least a portion of the video streams according to frequency of scene changes.

24. (currently amended) The system of claim 20, wherein the stream ranking component is configured to rank, and the stream display component is configured to arrange within the user interface, the video streams according to ~~popularity~~ how many network terminals are displaying the respective video streams.

25. (currently amended) The system of claim 20, wherein the stream ranking component is configured to promote at least one video stream to a higher rank in response to the time of day thereby changing the location of the at least one video stream within the user interface.

26. (currently amended) The system of claim 20, wherein the stream ranking component is configured to promote at least one video stream to a higher rank in response to the day of the week thereby changing the location of the at least one video stream within the user interface.

27. (currently amended) The system of claim 20, wherein the stream ranking component is configured to promote at least one video stream to a higher rank in response to information contained within a user's calendar thereby changing the location of the at least one video stream within the user interface.

28. (original) The system of claim 20, wherein the stream display component is configured to display the video streams in a grid format in the user interface.

29. (currently amended) The system of claim 28, wherein a video stream displayed near the top of the user interface is designated as having ~~has~~ a higher rank than a video stream displayed near the bottom of the user interface.

30. (currently amended) The system of claim 28, wherein a video stream displayed near the left side of the user interface is designated as having ~~has~~ a higher rank than a video stream displayed near the right side of the user interface.

31. (original) The system of claim 20, wherein the stream display component is configured to arrange the video streams in a ticker format in the user interface.

32. (currently amended) The system of claim 31, wherein the ticker format comprises a moving carousel of simultaneously-displayed video streams

having a beginning position and an ending position, and wherein a video stream displayed near the beginning position is designated as having ~~has~~ a higher rank than a video stream displayed near the ending position.

33. (currently amended) The system of claim 20, wherein the stream display component is configured to visually emphasize a video stream of highest rank within the user interface.

34. (original) The system of claim 33, wherein the stream display component is configured to enlarge the video stream of highest rank as displayed on the user interface relative to the other video streams.

35. (currently amended) The system of claim 20, wherein the network terminal comprises one of a cable network terminal and a direct satellite broadcast (DBS) network terminal.

36. (currently amended) The system of claim 20, wherein the network terminal comprises an interactive television system.

37. (original) The system of claim 20, wherein at least one video stream comprises a broadcast television program.

38. (original) The system of claim 20, wherein at least one video stream comprises live video generated by a webcam.

39. (currently amended) A computer program product comprising a machine-readable medium including program code for causing a machine to performing a method for organizing ~~displaying~~ video streams on a display screen ~~received from multiple terminals linked by a network~~, the method comprising:

receiving a plurality of video streams at a network terminal;

simultaneously displaying the video streams in a user interface provided by the network terminal;

ranking within the network terminal at least a portion of the video streams according to a set of ranking criteria, wherein said ranking is to determine the relative locations of the video streams within the user interface;[[,]] and

arranging the locations of at least a portion of the simultaneously-displayed video streams within the user interface in order of rank as determined by the ranking criteria.

40. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 39, further comprising:

detecting a scene change within a first video stream; and

promoting the first video stream to a higher rank thereby changing the location of the first video stream within the user interface.

41. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 39, wherein at least one video stream comprises a scene change, and wherein at least a portion of the video streams are ranked, and therefore arranged within the user interface, according to recency of scene changes.

42. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 39, wherein at least one video stream comprises a scene change, and wherein at least a portion of the video streams are ranked, and therefore arranged within the user interface, according to frequency of scene changes.

43. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 39, wherein the video streams are ranked, and therefore arranged within the user interface, according to ~~popularity~~ how many network terminals are displaying the respective video streams.

44. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 39, wherein at least one video stream is promoted to a higher rank in response to the time of day thereby changing the location of the at least one video stream within the user interface.

45. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 39, wherein at least one video stream is promoted to a higher rank in response to the day

of the week thereby changing the location of the at least one video stream within the user interface.

46. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 39, wherein at least one video stream is promoted to a higher rank in response to information contained within a user's calendar thereby changing the location of the at least one video stream within the user interface.

47. (original) The computer program product of claim 39, wherein displaying comprises:

displaying the video streams in a grid format in the user interface.

48. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 47, wherein a video stream displayed near the top of the user interface is designated as having ~~has~~ a higher rank than a video stream displayed near the bottom of the user interface.

49. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 47, wherein a video stream displayed near the left side of the user interface is designated as having ~~has~~ a higher rank than a video stream displayed near the right side of the user interface.

50. (original) The computer program product of claim 39, wherein displaying comprises:

displaying the video streams in a ticker format in the user interface.

51. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 50, wherein the ticker format comprises a moving carousel of simultaneously-displayed video streams having a beginning position and an ending position, and wherein a video stream displayed near the beginning position is designated as having ~~has~~ a higher rank than a video stream displayed near the ending position.

52. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 39, wherein displaying comprises:

visually emphasizing the video stream of highest rank within the user interface.

53. (original) The computer program product of claim 52, wherein emphasizing comprises:

enlarging the video stream of highest rank as displayed on the user interface relative to the other video streams.

54. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 39, wherein the network terminal comprises one of a cable network terminal and a direct satellite broadcast (DBS) network terminal.

55. (currently amended) The computer program product of claim 39, wherein the network terminal comprises an interactive television system.

56. (original) The computer program product of claim 39, wherein at least one video stream comprises a broadcast television program.

57. (original) The computer program product of claim 39, wherein at least one video stream comprises live video generated by a webcam.

58. (currently amended) A method for ~~displaying~~ organizing video streams received from multiple webcams linked by a network, the method comprising:

receiving a plurality of video streams at an interactive television system coupled to the network;

simultaneously displaying the video streams in a user interface provided by the interactive television system;

ranking at least a portion of the video streams according to a user-defined set of ranking criteria;

arranging the locations of at least a portion of the displayed video streams in the user interface in order of rank as determined by the ranking criteria;

detecting a change of scene within a first video stream;

promoting the first video stream to a higher rank in response to said detecting of the scene change; and

re-arranging the locations of at least a portion of the displayed video streams in the user interface in order of rank to reflect the promotion in rank of the first video stream.

59. (currently amended) A system for organizing ~~displaying~~ video streams on a display screen, the video streams being received from multiple webcams linked by a network, the method comprising:

a stream reception component configured to receive a plurality of video streams at an interactive television system coupled to the network;

a stream display component configured to simultaneously display~~ing~~ the video streams in a user interface provided by the interactive television system; and

a stream ranking component configured to rank at least a portion of the video streams according to a user-defined set of ranking criteria;

wherein the stream display component is further configured to visually emphasize a video stream of highest rank within the user interface

~~arrange at least a portion of the displayed video streams in the user interface in order of rank;~~

~~wherein the stream reception component is further configured to detect a change of scene within a first video stream;~~

~~wherein the stream ranking component is further configured to promote the first video stream to a higher rank; and~~

~~wherein the stream display component is further configured to re-arrange at least a portion of the displayed video streams in the user interface in order of rank to reflect the promotion in rank of the first video stream~~.

60. (currently amended) A system for organizing the display of ~~displaying~~ video streams on a television screen ~~received from multiple terminals linked by a network~~, the system comprising:

means for receiving a plurality of video streams at a set top box ~~network terminal~~;

means for simultaneously displaying the video streams on the television in a user interface provided by the set top box ~~network terminal~~;

means for ranking within the set top box at least a portion of the video streams according to a set of ranking criteria, wherein said ranking is to determine the relative locations of the video streams within the user interface; and

means for arranging the locations of at least a portion of the simultaneously-displayed video streams within the user interface in order of rank as determined by the ranking criteria.

61. (currently amended) A system for ~~displaying~~ organizing the display of video streams received from multiple webcams linked by a network, the system comprising:

means for receiving a plurality of video streams at an interactive television system coupled to the network;

means for simultaneously displaying the video streams in a user interface provided by the interactive television system;

means for ranking within the interactive television system at least a portion of the video streams according to a user-defined set of ranking criteria, wherein said ranking is to determine the relative locations of the video streams within the user interface;

means for arranging the locations of at least a portion of the displayed video streams in the user interface in order of rank as determined by the ranking criteria;

means for detecting a change of scene within a first video stream;

means for promoting the first video stream to a higher rank in response to the scene change being detected; and

means for re-arranging the locations of at least a portion of the displayed video streams in the user interface in order of rank to reflect the promotion in rank of the first video stream.

62. (currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

rearranging the locations of at least a portion of the simultaneously-displayed video streams within the user interface to reflect a change in rank associated with a first video stream.

63. (new) The system of claim 59, wherein the stream display component is further configured to visually emphasize the video stream of highest rank by enlarging it in the user interface relative to the other video streams.

64. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein arranging comprises ordering the video streams within the user interface from left to right in order of decreasing rank.

65. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein arranging comprises ordering the video streams within the user interface from top to bottom in order of decreasing rank.